## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.

a plurality of fibers;

a resinous fiber binder, said fibers fixedly distributed in said binder; and
a urethane modifier comprising from about 0.1 wt.% to about 50 wt.%, based
on the weight of said binder.

A fiber mat for use in a building material, said mat comprising:

- 2. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein said urethane modifier comprises a polyurethane modifier.
- 3. The fiber mat of Claim 2, wherein said polyurethane modifier is selected from the group consisting of: an aliphatic polyurethane, an aromatic polyurethane, and a hybrid polyurethane.
- 4. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein said fiber binder comprises a formaldehyde type binder.
- 5. The fiber mat of Claim 4, wherein said formaldehyde type binder is selected from the group consisting of: a urea/formaldehyde binder, a phenol/formaldehyde binder, and a melamine/formaldehyde binder.

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- 6. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of said fiber binder to said urethane modifier is in the range of from about 200:1 to about 4:1.
- 7. The fiber mat of Claim 1, said mat containing from about 55 wt.% to about 98 wt.% fiber and from about 0.05 wt.% to about 45 wt.% fiber binder.
  - 8. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein said fibers comprise glass fibers.
- 9. The fiber mat of Claim 1, said mat containing from about 55 wt.% to about 98 wt.% glass fiber and from about 15 wt.% to about 30 wt.% fiber binder.
- 10. The fiber mat of Claim 1, further comprising an asphalt coating on at least one surface of said mat, said mat having a tensile strength greater than about 1,000 psi.
  - 11. A fibrous mat roofing shingle, comprising:
    - a plurality of glass fibers; and
- a fixative composition comprising a fiber binder and between about 0.1 wt.% and about 50 wt.%, based on the weight of said binder, of a polyurethane modifier, wherein said fibers are fixedly distributed in said fixative composition.

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- 12. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein the concentration of the fiber binder, based on the weight of the fibrous mat, is in the range of from about 0.05 wt.% and about 45 wt.%.
- 13. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein said glass fibers comprise a plurality of glass filaments having an average length of from about ¼ to about 3 inches and a diameter of from about 1 to about 50 microns.
- 14. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein the concentration of said glass filaments is between about 55 and about 98 wt.%.
- 15. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein said polyurethane modifier is selected from the group consisting of: an aliphatic polyurethane, an aromatic polyurethane, and a hybrid polyurethane.
- 16. A process of making a fiber mat for use in a building material, said process comprising the steps of:
  - (a) forming an aqueous fiber slurry;
  - (b) removing water from the fiber slurry to form a wet fiber mat;
- (c) saturating the wet fiber mat with an aqueous solution of a fiber binder and a polyurethane modifier; and
  - (d) drying and curing the wet fiber mat to form a fiber mat product.

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- 17. The process of Claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of the fiber binder to the polyurethane modifier is in the range of from about 200:1 to about 4:1.
- 18. The process of Claim 16, wherein the modifier of step (c) is combined in water with the fiber binder of step (c) to form the aqueous solution.
  - 19. The process of Claim 16, further comprising the step of:
- (e) coating at least one surface of the fiber mat product with a layer of roofing asphalt,

wherein the fiber mat product has a tensile strength greater than about 1,000 psi.

20. The process of Claim 16, wherein the aqueous fiber slurry further comprises a fiber dispersing agent.